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and Democratic parties were little recognized in Indiana'' (p. 22) in 1824, but other regions had as little acquaintance. Throughout the book the author fails to recognize the social and economic implications of the whig and democratic parties and what Lincoln's affiliation with the whigs meant. We are told that he "belonged to the Federal party by instinct" (p. 17). But how explain political connections that made him subject to the charge, as Lincoln himself said in 1843, that "I (a stranger, friendless, uneducated, penniless boy, working on a flatboat at ten dollars per month) have been set down as the candidate of pride, wealth, and aristocratic family traditions." (See *Writings of Lincoln*, federal edition, 1:317). When will an inspired interpreter illuminate Lincoln's early political affiliations by the light of whig origins in the west?

A. C. COLE

The voice of Lincoln. By R. M. Wanamaker. (New York: Charles Scribner's sons, 1918. 363 p. \$2.50 net)

The author of this latest Lincoln book, Judge Wanamaker of the supreme court of Ohio, has long been an advocate of the idea that our schools should make more of the study of some of our great men, especially Lincoln. This book seems to have been written to show how such a study might be made profitable. The book, therefore, is not a biography nor can it be termed a character study; rather the author tries to let Lincoln reveal himself. At least this is the intention and purpose of the book. The author's thesis is to find out how Lincoln thought, what his mental methods were, how he developed his great efficiency in law, logic, language, and leadership. Lincoln himself, as far as possible, is permitted to answer the questions of the thesis.

The author first shows that Lincoln had two fundamental passions, the passion for knowledge and the passion for justice, both of which manifested themselves in his childhood and continued to be the underlying basis of his life and work. The companions of Lincoln's young manhood thought him lazy because he had a marked dislike for manual labor, but we are told by those who knew him that from a mental standpoint he was one of the most energetic young men of his day. Lincoln taught himself to write by writing compositions on various subjects and by learning every fine passage which he came across in his reading.

No passion of Lincoln's life was stronger than his passion for knowledge, save his passion for justice. Judge Wanamaker in his discussion of this passion of Lincoln's states that all the attributes associated with the attribute of justice were a part of Lincoln's nature, such as gentleness, helpfulness, gratitude, truthfulness, and honesty. The books he first studied all taught him these great qualities: the bible, *Pilgrim's*

progress, Aesop's fables, and Robinson Crusoe. We are told that every controversy, personal, professional, or political, had first to be tried out in the court of his conscience.

Following the discussion of the two fundamental passions of Lincoln's life come two chapters on Lincoln in politics. His career is described from 1832, when he became a candidate for the state legislature, through his one term in congress. The author lays emphasis upon the principles Lincoln maintained throughout his political career. Three chapters are devoted to a discussion of Lincoln the lawyer. The moral standards of his law practice were the same as those he had adopted for his private life, and to these principles he was faithful even when he became the leading lawyer of his state.

Two chapters are given to Lincoln the logician. Quoting Herndon that Lincoln had no faith in mere "say so's," the author proceeds to show how Lincoln developed the powers of logic which he displayed to such an eminent degree. First he always thought things out for himself, then distinguished between the essentials and nonessentials, and finally put his conclusions in the simplest language possible. This was the secret of Lincoln's logic. In the Lincoln-Douglas debates "his base was common sense, direct statement, and the inflexibility of logic." His great addresses whether in law, government, or politics were usually based upon some parable or proposition from the bible, some primary legal axiom, or political proposition from the declaration of independence.

It seems to be the universal opinion among men who have made a study of Lincoln's speeches that he was a master in the use of the English language. In a chapter on Lincoln's language the author says, "His oratory was not the oratory of expediency or opportunism; it was the oratory of the eternal reason and right of things." Lincoln had none of the natural oratorical endowments such as a rich voice or an attractive physique; instead, he was awkward and ungainly, with a falsetto voice. These disadvantages, however, were more than outweighed by the humanities of his head and heart. He was an "accurate and reliable interpreter of human nature and human needs."

Five of Lincoln's great speeches are printed in the book with little comment. The Gettysburg oration is an exception; in its case the author makes a careful analysis and produces a very interesting chapter. Two chapters are given to Lincoln the leader, in which those qualities emphasized in Rothchild's *Lincoln, master of men* are discussed. Lincoln's leadership stood "for measures rather than men, for causes rather than candidates, for principles rather than persons." The book closes with

chapters on "Lincoln on peace"; "Lincoln the most unselfish of men"; and Lincoln's views on religion, temperance, and labor.

Although the author deals with a much discussed subject, yet he has in the opinion of the reviewer made a book which is decidedly worth while. The style is conversational, and like Lincoln's own, simple and direct. The reviewer feels that Judge Wanamaker has amply vindicated his views in regard to the importance of the study of the character of Lincoln.

W. W. SWEET

Battle of Plattsburg: a study in and of the war of 1812. To remind our troops of the actions of their brave countryman, — General Macomb, in his report of the battle of Plattsburg. By John M. Stahl (Chicago: Van Trump company, 1918. 166 p. \$1.00)

That such a book as this could be written in the face of almost numberless demonstrations of the fallacy of its thesis, illustrates anew the amazing incapacity of many seemingly intelligent minds to reason correctly or to distinguish truth from error. Mr. Stahl, an "ex-president of the Society of the War of 1812 in Illinois," is moved to indignation over the spectacle of the woful ignorance displayed by Americans with respect to the able and heroic manner in which their forbears waged the war of 1812. Chief responsibility for this sad state of affairs is ascribed to the fact that from New England, a section "early noted for its mental narrowness, its intolerance, its self-righteousness, and assumption of superior wisdom" has proceeded most of our public writing "including that labelled, and libelled, History." To proceed with the indictment, our children in the public and private schools are taught "almost or quite nothing" about the war of 1812, and "yet worse, what is taught is, in nearly every case, and particular, erroneous so far as it relates to the land engagements, and is unjust to . . . the brave soldiers of that War." Because of this "crime" committed against the soldiers of the war of 1812, they "are generally regarded as nearly always incompetent and very often cowardly" and the war itself as "insignificant in purpose and inconclusive and discreditable in results."

Truly a magnitudinous task has Mr. Stahl set himself. Let us note the historical method whereby he proceeds to unravel the long-concealed truth about the war of 1812. Chapter 2, on "Authorities," discloses it. Having read diligently "more than two score" books about the war (fearing, incidentally, that he "must be almost the only person that has read some of these books for many years") he finds that "the sooner after the War the book was written, the more valuable it is as history." It is true some of the early writers were prejudiced; "but they made